

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (previously presented) A communications system, comprising:

a first information processing apparatus; and

a second information processing apparatus interconnected with said first information processing apparatus by a network whereby data is communicated between first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus;

said first information processing apparatus including:

a transmission clock counter that counts an internal transmission clock,

generation means that generates, at a predetermined time, synchronization control data,

transmission means that transmits the synchronization control data to said second information processing apparatus, and

transmission resetting means that resets said transmission clock counter immediately upon the transmission of the synchronization control data being completed; and

said second information processing apparatus including:

a reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock,

data determining means that determines whether or not data that is received by said second information processing apparatus is the synchronization control data, and

reception resetting means that resets said reception clock counter immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data

being determined to be the synchronization control data,

the resetting of the transmission clock counter of the first information processing apparatus and the resetting of the reception clock counter of the second information processing apparatus thereby being substantially concurrent.

2. (previously presented) The communications system according to claim 1, wherein said transmission clock counter and said reception clock counter count values in the same range.

3. (previously presented) The communications system according to claim 1, wherein said first information processing apparatus further comprises counter determining means that determines whether or not a value of said transmission clock counter becomes zero; and if the value of said transmission clock counter is determined as to become zero by said counter determining means, said transmission means transmits said synchronization control data generated by said generation means to said second information processing apparatus.

4. (previously presented) A communications method in which data is communicated between a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus which are interconnected by a network, said method comprising:

generating, at the first information processing apparatus, synchronization control data;

transmitting the generated synchronization control data from the first information processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus;

resetting a transmission clock counter that counts an internal transmission clock immediately upon the transmission of the synchronization control data being completed;

determining, at the second information processing apparatus, whether or not data that is received by the second information processing apparatus is the synchronization control data; and

resetting, at the second information processing apparatus, a reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data being determined to be the synchronization control data,

the resetting of the transmission clock counter of the first information processing apparatus and the resetting of the reception clock counter of the second information processing apparatus thereby being substantially concurrent.

5. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving data with another information processing apparatus connected thereto by a network, comprising:

a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock;

generation means that generates, at a predetermined time, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of a reception clock counter of said another information processing apparatus;

control data transmission means that transmits the synchronization control data to the another information processing apparatus; and

reset means that resets the transmission clock counter immediately upon the transmission of the synchronization control data being completed.

6. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein clock counter counts values of the transmission clock counter are in the same range

as clock counter values of the reception clock counter of said another information processing apparatus.

7. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising: counter determining means that determines whether or not a value of said transmission clock counter becomes zero; wherein if a value of said transmission clock counter is determined to be zero by said counter determining means, said control data transmission means transmits said synchronization control data generated by said generation means to said another information processing apparatus.

8. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

adding means that adds to a header of said data, based on a value of said clock counter, a counter value indicating the timing at which said another information processing apparatus processes data; and

data transmission means that transmits to said another information processing apparatus said data to which said counter value added by said adding means.

9. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

acquisition means that acquires a counter value, which indicates the timing at which data is processed, added by said another information processing apparatus;

time determining means that determines whether or not a value of transmission clock counter reaches said counter value acquired by said acquisition means; and

data processing means that processes said data if said time determining means determines that the value of said transmission clock counter reaches said counter value.

10. (previously presented) An information processing method for transmitting/receiving data between a first

information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus connected to each other by a network, comprising:

- generating, at the first information processing apparatus at a predetermined time, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of a reception clock counter of said second information processing apparatus;

- transmitting the generated synchronization control data from the first information processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus; and

- resetting, at the first information processing apparatus, a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock immediately upon the transmission of the synchronization control data being completed.

11. (previously presented) A processor encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute a process for transmitting/receiving data with an information processing apparatus connected by a network, the process comprising:

- generating, at the first information processing apparatus at a predetermined time, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of a reception clock counter of said second information processing apparatus;

- transmitting the generated synchronization control data from the first information processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus; and

- resetting, at the first information processing apparatus, a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock immediately upon the transmission of the synchronization control data being completed.

12. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving data with another information processing apparatus connected thereto by a network, the apparatus comprising:

a first clock counter that counts an internal clock;

data determining means that determines whether or not data that is received from the another information processing apparatus is synchronization control data which instructs a reset of said first clock counter at the same time as a reset of a second clock counter of said another information processing apparatus; and

reset means that resets said first clock counter immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data being determined to be the synchronization control data.

13. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first clock counter counts values in the same range as said second clock counter of said other information processing apparatus.

14. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a header of the received data includes a counter value based on the value of said second clock counter of said other information processing apparatus, the counter value indicating the timing at which said information processing apparatus processes the received data.

15. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

acquisition means that acquires a counter value, which indicates a timing at which data is processed, from said another information processing apparatus;

time determining means that determines whether or not a value of said first clock counter reaches the counter value; and

data processing means that processes the received data when said time determining means determines that the value of said clock counter reaches said counter value.

16. (previously presented) An information processing method, the method comprising:

counting an internal clock using a first clock counter;

determining whether data received from an information processing apparatus is synchronization control data which instructs, at the same time as a reset of a second clock counter of the information processing apparatus, a reset of the first clock counter; and

resetting the first clock counter immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data being determined to be synchronization control data.

17. (previously presented) A processor encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute a process for transmitting/receiving with an information apparatus connected thereto by a network, the process comprising:

counting an internal clock using a first clock counter;

determining whether data received from an information processing apparatus is synchronization control data which instructs, at the same time as a reset of a second clock counter of the information processing apparatus, a reset of the first clock counter; and

resetting the first clock counter immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data being determined to be synchronization control data.